

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

November 20, 2020

The Honorable Ron DeSantis  
Governor, State of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 S. Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Dear Governor DeSantis,

As you know, Tropical Storm Eta made landfall just north of Tampa Bay on November 12<sup>th</sup>, bringing storm surge, high winds, and excessive rainfall to the southern and west coasts of Florida for several days. Following the storm, my office received numerous reports of flooded and damaged homes and businesses throughout Pinellas County.

The highest proportion of damaged properties occurred in low-lying areas like Madeira Beach, Shore Acres, Gulfport, and other waterfront communities. I have been told by Madeira Beach city officials that 80 percent of properties in the town were damaged by flooding from Tropical Storm Eta. Storm survivors are understandably feeling anxious about how to repair their homes and businesses, where to seek assistance, and what options they have for financing repairs. For this reason, I urge you to request additional assistance from FEMA, including Individual Assistance, so Pinellas communities can be set on the path to recovery.

In addition, Tropical Storm Eta has exacerbated an existing problem in John's Pass where high volumes of sand have been accumulating in some areas, making those areas impassable by boat. The City of Madeira Beach has shared with me that their beach groins were also damaged in the storm, which will result in more rapid sand accumulation. I ask that the State work with local and federal stakeholders to find a solution to the sand accumulation, as well as provide support for Madeira Beach to repair its beach groins.

Thank you for your attention to this serious matter.

Sincerely,



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Charlie Crist  
UNITED STATES CONGRESSMAN